

FROM

STATE SENATOR

SAM ANNESTAD

4TH SENATE DISTRICT

Northern California



June 21, 2006



HELPING RURAL CALIFORNIA SB 1733

Rural-friendly legislation from Senator Sam Anestad (R-Grass Valley) is one step closer to law in California after recently passing out of the State Senate. SB 1733 is designed to offer a measure of relief to Northern California cities and communities who have been hit hard by state and federal clean water mandates adopted in 1999.

Impossible Mandates

The new clean water mandates were designed with public safety in mind. The goal was to promote clean water standards. But instead, the new mandates have resulted in an endless series of fines and financial hardships for many rural communities in California.

Costly Upgrades

The new clean water mandates forced wastewater facilities in every corner of California to pay for expensive upgrades and equipment. Wastewater facilities located in urban or city areas were able to comply with the new guidelines, since the cost could be passed on to a large business and population base.

The Problem in Rural California

While wastewater facilities in urban areas were able to upgrade to meet the new requirements, rural facilities were largely left behind. Rural facilities do not have the large population and business base needed to pay for the needed upgrades.

Caught in a Catch-22

Rural wastewater facilities are caught in a never-ending Catch-22 nightmare because of the new mandates. They are often fined by regional water quality control boards for violating the new guidelines. This means that money that should be going to pay for upgrades is instead used to pay off numerous state fines for violation of the new clean water mandates.

SB 1733 Solution

Senator Anestad says the goal of SB 1733 is not to exempt rural communities from state clean water

mandates, but rather help them pay for the expensive upgrades that many older wastewater facilities in rural California need.

Relief for Rural Communities

SB 1733 provides a solution for many rural facilities that are currently out of compliance with the new mandates. It would give these facilities the flexibility to divert funding. Money that had been earmarked to pay for fines, could instead be used to pay for needed infrastructure improvements.

"This legislation is a helping hand up, not a handout for our rural communities. My bill doesn't exempt them from the clean water obligations that all Californians deserve, yet at the same time, helps them obtain the needed financing to pay for these new mandates."

Senator Sam Anestad

For more information, visit: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4>

Or call Senator Anestad's Office at: **916-651-4004**

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